

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	ORDER OF
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	SUMMARY SUSPENSION
)	
Certification of Dennis Harold Feltz)	
)	
Certificate #211956)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on June 9, 2004. The State Department of Education (Department) will send a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate #211956 (certificate) to Mr. Dennis Harold Feltz by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. In the interim in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. §1-23-370(c) (1986), the Department requested that the State Board summarily suspend Mr. Feltz's certificate until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved. The Department has reason to believe, due to the nature of the misconduct that led to Mr. Feltz being placed on administrative leave that Mr. Feltz, may pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students that may be under his instruction. This summary suspension will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a summary suspension pending due process proceedings. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to summarily suspend Mr. Feltz's certificate until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved.

Mr. Feltz holds a valid South Carolina certificate, with over 34 years of teaching experience credit. Mr. Feltz had a teaching contract with the Charleston County School District (District) for the 2003 – 2004 school year. Mr. Feltz was arrested on May 20, 2004, following an investigation into allegations that he had inappropriately touched a ten-year old special education student. Mr. Feltz was charged with Committing a Lewd Act on a Child Under

Fourteen and Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor Under Eleven. The District immediately placed him on administrative leave pending disposition of the charges.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes: “immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; unprofessional conduct; and crime against the law of this State or the United States.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (1986), “If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action.” The State Board finds that there is reason to believe that Mr. Feltz may pose a threat to the welfare of students that may be under his instruction. Accordingly, the State Board thereby summarily suspends Mr. Feltz’s certificate # 211956 until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary Jones
Dr. Mary Jones
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
June 9, 2004